**Information from the Belarusian side in the context of the preparation by Ms. Heba Hagrass, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, of a report for the 79th session of the UN General Assembly**

The Republic of Belarus maintains a high position in the ranking of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - 34th place among 166 countries.

Our country is in the group of countries with a high level of human development, ranking 60th among 191 countries in the Human Development Index and 61st among 169 countries in the Social Progress Index[[1]](#footnote-1).

The SDGs are implemented in the National Strategy for Sustainable Development until 2035 and are also correlated with state programmes of socio-economic development.

Belarus has achieved a high level of monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs. The National SDG reporting platform has been created, 230 out of 267 indicators of the national list are available, 166 indicators correspond to the global level.

A unified regional list of SDG indicators has been formed, consisting of 145 indicators (85 correspond to the indicators of the national list, 26 reflect the specifics of regional development).

Our country has one of the lowest indicators of population poverty. In 2023, only 3.6 per cent of Belarusian citizens were officially classified as low-income. This indicator is twice lower than the average for Eastern Europe and is the lowest among the CIS countries. The target set in the NSDS-2035 to reduce the poverty rate (to 4 per cent in 2035) has already been achieved.

In terms of life expectancy, our republic has come close to its European neighbours. Thanks to the development of health care, life expectancy has increased to 74.4 years.

The state makes serious efforts to achieve the goals of the UN Strategy for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities, general principles and obligations ratified by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[[2]](#footnote-2).

In 2017, the strategic objectives of achieving sustainability and inclusiveness were laid down in the basis of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Republic of Belarus until 2025. The measures of the National Plan are aimed at ensuring decent living conditions, expanding employment opportunities and participation in public life for persons with disabilities.

The Republican Interdepartmental Council on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and similar regional councils, which include as full members the heads of public associations of persons with disabilities, promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, monitor their implementation and coordinate this work. At least once every six months, meetings of these councils consider issues related to the provision of medical and social rehabilitation for persons with disabilities, the implementation of the principle of inclusion in education, culture and sports, and the provision of an accessible living environment for persons with disabilities.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection has been designated as the body in charge of issues related to the implementation of the Convention and ensures the activity of the Republican Interdepartmental Council on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities under the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus.

The Sustainable Development Council (SDC), which includes a cross-sectoral group on social issues, has been established under the leadership of the National Coordinator for the achievement of the SDGs.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection is responsible for the implementation of the following SDG goals *(*[*https://sdgplatform.belstat.gov.by/*](https://sdgplatform.belstat.gov.by/)*)*:

Goal 1: "Eradicate poverty in all its forms everywhere";

Goal 5. "Achieve gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls";

Goal 8. "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all" (to be implemented jointly with the Ministry of Economy);

Goal 10. "Reduce inequalities within and between countries".

Progress for persons with disabilities is measured by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection under SDG 10 "Reduce inequalities within and between countries".

A number of national SDG indicators have been developed to assess measures taken to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities *(*[*https://sdgplatform.belstat.gov.by/*](https://sdgplatform.belstat.gov.by/)*)*:

1.3.1.1 "Share of the population covered by social protection systems, broken down by sex, with children, the elderly and the disabled being singled out";

1.b.1.4 "Maintenance of the State Institution "Republican Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children" (*thousand roubles*)";

1.b.1.6 "Expenditures on provision of citizens with technical means of social rehabilitation (*thousand roubles*)".

Under the project "Supporting the efforts of the Republic of Belarus in the nationalization and localization of the SDGs." On 29 December 2023, a thematic meeting of the SDC "On the rights of people with disabilities, their social rehabilitation and formation of an inclusive society" was held.

The RMS meeting considered issues in three main areas:

-  implementation of state policy for the integration of people with disabilities into active life in society

-  implementation of state policy to integrate people with disabilities into the active life of society, create an accessible environment and improve their quality of life;

-  partnership with public organisations to support people with disabilities;

-  partnership with the UN Country Team in the Republic of Belarus in the field of ensuring the rights of people with disabilities, their social rehabilitation and formation of an inclusive society.

Belarus continues to work on creating an inclusive society, which will have a positive impact on the lives and well-being, first of all, of Belarusian citizens with disabilities.

1. Analytical Report "NSDS-2035 in Figures: Results of Implementation of Sustainable Development Priorities" [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Act No. 424-Z of the Republic of Belarus of 18 October 2016 "On Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" [↑](#footnote-ref-2)